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55. A system as recited in claim 54 wherein the decision means includes a selecting means to select an n-tuple of bids (S_i, P_i), at most one from each user system, which selection is effective to optimize the sum of the different value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the associated subsets S_i of all of the selected bids are compatible.

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56. A system as recited in claim 54 wherein the decision means selects bids to optimize the sum of the different value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the associated subsets S_i of every pair of selected bids are disjoint.

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57. A system as recited in claim 53 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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58. A system as recited in claim 56 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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59. A system as recited in claim 58 wherein the decision means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i of an earlier round of selected bids.

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60. A method for conducting a computer implemented auction of television licenses or associated derivative rights to a plurality of users comprising:

- a) providing an auctioneer's system;
- b) receiving bid related information from users, said information including bids for television licenses or associated derivative rights, and transmitting bid information to the auctioneer's system;
- c) determining at the auctioneer's system, in response to the bid information received from users, whether the auction should continue or terminate;

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- d) transmitting a message indicating that the auction will continue to at least one user, in response to a determination to continue the auction; and
- e) transmitting a message indicating that the auction will terminate to at least one user, in response to a determination to terminate the auction.

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~~61.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~60~~²⁸ wherein the bid information includes a value parameter P_i and an associated license subset identification S_i , where the license subset identification S_i identifies a set of licenses and where the value parameter P_i specifies a payment proposed by the user in return for the licenses of subset S_i .

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~~62.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~61~~²⁹ wherein the determining includes selecting an n-tuple of bids (S_i, P_i) , at most one from each user system, which selection is effective to optimize the sum of the different value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the associated subsets S_i of all of the selected bids are compatible.

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~~63.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~61~~²⁹ wherein the determining selects bids to optimize the sum of the different value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the associated subsets S_i of every pair of selected bids are disjoint.

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~~64.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~60~~²⁸ wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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~~65.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~61~~²⁹ wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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A method as recited in claim ~~65~~ wherein the determining compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i of an earlier round of selected bids.

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A system for conducting a computer implemented auction of television licenses or associated derivative rights, said system including a plurality of user systems operated by bidders and an auctioneer's system, the auctioneer's system being communicatively coupled to a plurality of user systems, comprising:

- a) means for receiving bid information for the television licenses or associated derivative rights from bidders at a plurality of user systems,
- b) means for transmitting signals based on the bid information from user systems to the auctioneer's system, and
- c) means for determining, based on the signals, the television licenses or associated derivative rights to be assigned to the bidders.

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A system as recited in claim ~~67~~ wherein the bid information includes a value parameter P_i and an associated license subset identification S_i , where the license subset identification S_i identifies a set of licenses and where the value parameter P_i specifies a payment proposed by the user in return for the licenses of subset S_i .

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A system as recited in claim ~~68~~ wherein the decision means includes a selecting means to select an n-tuple of bids (S_i, P_i) , at most one from each user system, which selection is effective to optimize the sum of the different value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the associated subsets S_i of all of the selected bids are compatible

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~~70.~~

~~38. 70. A system as recited in claim 68 wherein the decision means selects bids to optimize the sum of the different value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the associated subsets S_i of every pair of selected bids are disjoint.~~

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~~41.~~ A system as recited in claim ~~67~~³⁵ wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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~~72.~~ A system as recited in claim ~~70~~³⁸ wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

~~73~~⁴¹ A system as recited in claim ~~72~~⁴⁰ wherein the decision means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i of an earlier round of selected bids.

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~~74.~~ A method for conducting a computer implemented auction of television licenses or associated derivative rights in a system including a plurality of user systems operated by bidders and an auctioneer's system, the auctioneer's system being communicatively coupled to a plurality of user systems, the method comprising:

- a) receiving bid information for the television licenses or associated derivative rights from bidders at a plurality of user systems,
- b) transmitting signals based on the bid information from user systems to the auctioneer's system, and
- c) determining, based on the signals, the television licenses or associated derivative rights to be assigned to the bidders.

identification S_i identifies a set of licenses and where the value parameter P_i specifies a payment proposed by the user in return for the licenses of subset S_i .

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~~76.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~75~~ wherein the determining includes selecting an n-tuple of bids (S_i, P_i), at most one from each user system, which selection is effective to optimize the sum of the different value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the associated subsets S_i of all of the selected bids are compatible.

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~~77.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~75~~ wherein the determining selects bids to optimize the sum of the different value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the associated subsets S_i of every pair of selected bids are disjoint.

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~~78.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~74~~ wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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~~79.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~77~~ wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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~~80.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~79~~ wherein the determining compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i of an earlier round of selected bids.

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~~81.~~ A computer system for implementing an auction of television licenses or associated derivative rights, said auction including a plurality of bidders, comprising:
a) means for inputting, into the computer, bids for television licenses or associated derivative rights;

b) means for determining, based on the bids, an allocation of television licenses or associated derivative rights to bidders; and

c) means for outputting, from the computer, the allocation of television licenses or associated derivative rights to bidders.

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~~82~~ A system as recited in claim ⁴⁹~~81~~ wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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~~83~~ A system as recited in claim ⁴⁹~~81~~ wherein the bids include a value parameter P_i and an associated license subset identification S_i , where the license subset identification S_i identifies a set of licenses and where the value parameter P_i specifies a payment proposed by the user in return for the licenses of subset S_i .

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~~84~~ A method for using a computer to implement an auction of television licenses or associated derivative rights, said auction including a plurality of bidders, comprising:

a) inputting, into the computer, bids for television licenses or associated derivative rights;

b) determining, based on the bids, an allocation of television licenses or associated derivative rights to bidders; and

c) outputting, from the computer, the allocation of television licenses or associated derivative rights to bidders.

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~~85~~ A method as recited in claim ⁵²~~84~~ wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

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~~86~~ A method as recited in claim ⁵²~~84~~ wherein the bids include a value parameter P_i and an associated license subset identification S_i , where the license subset identification S_i identifies